



The Gettysburg Quarterly

Spangler's Spring rehab work will reveal an area so exposed that a Confederate soldier called it "Artillery Hell"

Battlefield rehabilitation work continues this fall with the planned removal of nonhistoric trees to the west of Spangler's Spring and work in other areas on the battlefield. Six acres of trees will be removed, provided soil conditions are dry enough or cold enough this fall and winter. The goal is to re-open the fields that exposed Confederate troops in and around the Spangler's Spring area to heavy fire from 28 Union guns - 18 of them concentrated on and around Powers' Hill alone. Confederate regiments engaged the Union positions here on the far right flank of the Union line during a seven hour engagement on July 3, 1863, that started before dawn. One of Confederate General George Stewart's men called the area "artillery hell" because of the intense artillery fire they were exposed to, leading them to stop their attack and withdraw, changing Lee's plans to attack both flanks on the third day of battle.

Since the battle era, trees have grown up and obscured the open view of Spangler's Spring from the west, making it hard to understand the battle action.

The majority of Culp's Hill was wooded at the time of the battle and the National Park Service continues to preserve more than 90 acres of historic woodlots on Culp's Hill.



Above: Gettysburg National Military Park historian John Heiser at a press briefing about the planned battlefield rehabilitation work near Spangler's Spring. GNMP photo by Katie Lawhon.

Below: Chief of Resource Planning, Jim Johnson, at Spangler's Spring. GNMP photo by Katie Lawhon.



